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placable in their hostility to hereditary foes ; yet he contends that they are essentially a noble people, in form, in mind, and in heart, and are capable of large development. No race has a finer physique,—one more free from morbid tendencies, or more capable of enduring privation and hardship. They are not a people who love war for its spoils or its excitements, and they have no care to enlarge their territory by conquests, or their wealth by predatory raids into other provinces. All that they ask is to “be let alone,” to live unmolested in their rocky glens and fastnesses, and to retain without hinderance their cherished institutions.

For centuries this province of Monténégro, the “Black Mountain,” was a theocracy, ruled by a bishop, who was at once a hero in the fight, a counsellor in the cabinet, and a priest at the altar. It was with great reluctance that the people consented to lose that feature of their constitution, and to allow their lineal bishop to take the title of “Prince,” rather than his more sacred name. The change from ecclesiastical to secular sway has not increased the strength of the tribes. Prince Daniel, notwithstanding his great popularity, was murdered some two years since, and the position of his successor is very precarious. It is with the accession of the young Nicholas, in 1860, that the narrative of Delarue breaks off. Prince Daniel is naturally enough a hero to the man who was his friend, adviser, and assistant in the government. The portrait which Delarue has drawn of him will seem too flattering when some acts of Daniel’s cruelty are remembered, especially the banishment of the poet Cuca, whose verse was the honor of his people.

7.—*Lettres Inédites de JEAN RACINE et de LOUIS RACINE, précédées de la Vie de Jean Racine et d'une Notice sur Louis Racine.* Par leur Petit-Fils, l'ABBÉ ADRIEN DE LA ROQUE, Chanoine Titulaire d'Autun, et Ancien Vicaire Général Honoraire du même Diocèse, etc. Paris : L. Hachette et C^{ie}. 1862. 8vo. pp. 459.

A COLLECTION of unpublished letters from the pen of Racine is an unexpected and welcome gift to every admirer of the great French dramatist, even though they throw no additional light on his own productions or on those of his illustrious contemporaries. Of their authenticity there can be, we think, no doubt. The editor, the Abbé de la Roque, is himself the great-grandson of Racine’s eldest daughter, and his mother is the only one of Racine’s descendants who personally knew the widow of Louis Racine, the poet’s youngest son. “Most of the letters of Racine,” he writes, “which now appear for the first time, are addressed to his sister, Marie Racine, afterward Madame, or, ac-

cording to the usage of the time, Mademoiselle Rivière. A few are addressed to her husband, who to the title of Doctor of Medicine added those of Counsellor of the King and Controller of the Salt Magazine at La Ferté-Milon. Madame Rivière, who enjoyed a long and happy life, never left the birthplace of her ancestors, and her descendants still remain there. There, in this family sanctuary, the precious correspondence of which we are now to speak has always been preserved with a religious care." And in nearly the same words, he writes in his Introduction that "the originals of the Inedited Letters of Racine have been transmitted through many generations as the most precious portion of the family inheritance." The letters thus preserved are twenty-four in number, extending over a period of about forty years, and are simple and natural in expression, and strongly marked by the tenderness and depth of affection which Racine so largely possessed. They have not much historical or literary interest, since they seldom or never allude to public affairs, and there is not, we believe, a single reference in them to any of the writer's works. It is only on account of the pleasing picture of his personal character which they present, that they are likely to be read, or are, indeed, worth printing.

The correspondence of Louis Racine, which comprises sixty-seven letters, and fills about a third of the volume, opens with a very amusing series of letters addressed to Mlle. Marie Presle de l'Ecluse, afterward Madame Racine, just before their marriage. The remaining letters, with the exception of three short notes, are also addressed to his wife. Though they do not exhibit such remarkable tenderness as characterizes his father's familiar letters, they embrace a somewhat wider range of topics, and give one a very favorable opinion of the writer's ability and personal character. They relate for the most part to matters of personal or family interest, but occasionally offer incidental remarks on subjects of a more public nature. As illustrations of the moral and intellectual character of a writer whose reputation has been entirely overshadowed by the splendor of his father's fame, but who was a man of note in his own age, they well deserve preservation.

To the letters which give a title to his volume the Abbé de la Roque has prefixed a tolerably full, and on the whole a satisfactory, memoir of Jean Racine, written indeed with the exaggeration which we should naturally expect to find in a Frenchman, a descendant of Racine, and a priest who looks with peculiar satisfaction on the last years of the poet's life, and who seems inclined to set a high value on the feeble tragedy of Esther. There are also a shorter notice of Louis Racine, and copious genealogical notes in respect to nearly all of the poet's descendants.